

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a valve-seat surface;
  - a valve needle;
  - a valve-closure member situated in the housing and cooperating with the valve-seat surface to form a sealing seat;
  - one of a piezoelectric and magnetostrictive actuator which actuates the valve-closure member; and
  - an hydraulic coupler having a downstream recess in which one end of the valve needle is engaged in a pivotable manner;
  - wherein the valve needle is formed in one piece.
8. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein the recess has a conical shape.
9. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein the recess widens in a discharge direction.
10. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 7, wherein an inflow-side end of the valve needle has a rounded region.
11. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 10, wherein the rounded region is in a shape of one of a cap and a hemisphere.
12. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector according to claim 10, wherein the rounded region rests in the recess by way of a circular contact line.

Claim 13. (Canceled).